

Colonial Life

Everyone, from children to adults, had jobs to do in order for the colonies to survive.

Men

Men had the most opportunities in terms of occupations in colonial America. Most men were farmers who planted and harvested crops for their own food as well as to sell. Wealthy men could afford to own slaves who worked the fields for the plantation owners. A small number of men could also hold office as town officials or representatives in colonial assemblies.

Most men, if they were not farmers, were skilled laborers. Skilled jobs included:

- Harnessmaker: made saddles and harnesses for horses
- Shoemaker: made shoes and boots
- Cabinetmaker: made furniture, coffins, and repaired musical instruments
- Cooper: made barrels, buckets, piggins (a small wooden bucket with an extended arm for a handle), and pails
- Wheelwright: made wheels for carriages, wagons, and carts
- Gunsmith: made guns
- Blacksmith: made anything that required iron such as nails, plows, pots, knives, padlocks, and horseshoes; also shod horses and acted as veterinarians
- Founder: melted different metals together to create new metals such as brass, bronze, and pewter
- Silversmith: made items out of gold, silver, brass, and copper such as plates, spoons, and candlesticks
- Papermaker: made paper for books and newspapers
- Printer: printed books and newspapers
- Bookbinder: bound paper together to make books
- Carpenter: built buildings
- Brickmaker: made and laid bricks

Women

Women had fewer opportunities than men in colonial America. The majority of women worked around the family home and farm. They cooked and cleaned the house, raised the children, and cared for the gardens and livestock. They also spun yarn or thread and sewed the family's clothes as well as made the family's soap, candles, and other necessities.

Women could use their skills to make money to help support their families. They would take in extra sewing or laundry, or sell extra food they produced in their gardens or from their livestock. Women sometimes ran shops, taverns and inns, or worked as cooks, bakers, midwives and teachers. A few women even managed large plantations in the south.

Children

From a very young age, children were treated as little adults. They were expected to do chores around the house and farm to learn the necessary skills for the adult world. Few families had little money to send children to school. Boys usually learned their fathers' skills or were apprenticed to craftsmen. Boys as young as nine would be sent to live with a craftsman and his family for seven years to learn a particular trade. Girls learned needlework, housekeeping, and cooking from their mothers and at an older age were sometimes sent to neighboring families to help out around the house.

Children's education in colonial America varied based on location and wealth. In the Southern colonies, the population was spread out so schooling was typically done at home. Poor children received very little education while children of wealthy families had private tutors or governesses in the house or they were sent to England to be educated. Education in the Middle region was considered a family and a church responsibility. Many churches established charity and private schools for children in town. Boys and girls would attend school together at a young age and then they would separate for secondary school. Boys would attend academies to learn Latin, Greek, mathematics, and science, while girls attended seminaries to learn needlework, music, dancing, etiquette, and French. New England schools were set up in a similar manner although many were tax supported and open to all. In all colonies, higher education was only open to boys from wealthy families.

Indentured Servants

Indentured servants were men and women, from western Europe, who were brought over as laborers to the colonies the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These men and women bound themselves to a master for four to seven years in return for passage to America, food, clothing, and shelter. Indentured servants worked in fields or homes, or with skilled laborers in their shops. Upon completion of

their term, the master was supposed to give them money, clothes, or tools along with their freedom, although this rarely happened. Many indentured servants were abused and taken advantage of, and some did not survive to the end of their indenture.

Slaves

Slaves were men, women, and children brought over from Africa for servitude. They traveled to the colonies in cramped ships full of disease and if they survived the voyage, they were sold to masters to become property with no chance of freedom. Children could also be born into slavery in the colonies. Most slaves worked in fields on plantations in the Southern and Chesapeake regions or farms throughout the colonies. Many slaves were taught skills and worked in households cooking, cleaning, sewing, and taking care of the masters' families, and in some cases worked with craftsmen such as blacksmiths. Slaves had no rights and were severely punished for misbehavior, and very few were taught how to read and write. Slaves spent their entire lives in servitude unless, on a rare occasion, their master freed them.

Free African Americans

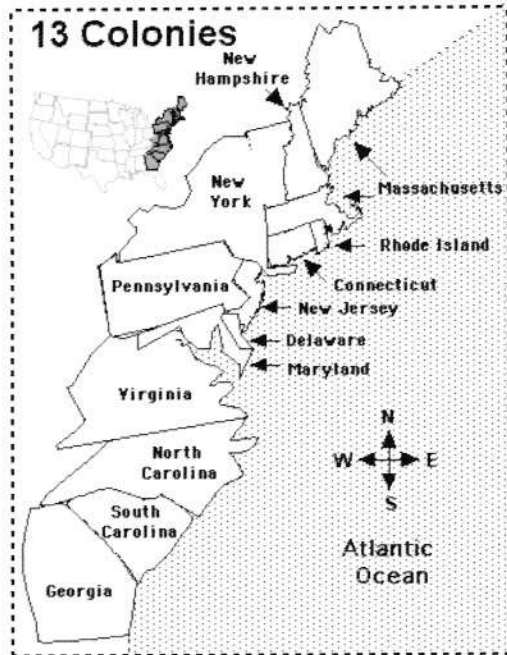
Prior the 1690s slaves could gain their freedom after a certain number of years of service or they could buy their freedom. Free slaves and their children along with children of mixed-race relationships helped to create free African American communities. Generally these mixed-race relationships consisted of the mingling of a white indentured servant (many cases a woman) and a slave who later gained their freedom or an already free African American (many cases a man). There were instances where a white man would marry a free African American woman, as well as mixed-race Native Americans. These communities occurred throughout Virginia, North Carolina, New York and New Jersey. Starting in late 1600s with designation of slavery being an appropriate condition for those of African American decent, legislation followed prohibiting the manumissions of slaves and the mixing of races (e.g., illegitimate mixed-race or mulatto children of white women were bound out for 30 years). This established slavery as an institution relegating slaves as property destined for a lifetime of servitude.

The Roles of Colonial Life

Using the information found within **Colonial Life**, choose responsibilities from the list below and write them in the box next to the group of people that would have preformed the tasks. (Remember that more than one can be placed in each box, and some groups had the same responsibilities!)

- Managed Household -Cared for Farm Animals -Shop Keeping
- Cooked -Farmed -Sewed Samplers -Sewed for Others
- Made Clothes -Provided free labor -Became Apprentices
- Worked as Skilled Laborers -Attended College
- Owned Plantations -Served as Town Officials -Cleaned
- Made Candles -Worked in Fields and Homes -Helped with Chores

Colonial	Task(s)
Men	
Women	
Boys	
Girls	
Indentured Servants/Slaves	



1. The thirteen colonies were colonies of what country?

2. Which colony was farthest north?

3. Which colony was farthest south?

4. The colonies were bounded by the Appalachian Mountains on the west. What ocean bordered the colonies on the east?

5. The oldest colony was Virginia (founded in 1607). Which colony was just south of Virginia?

6. The colony of Virginia contained what are now the states of Virginia and West Virginia. What colony bordered Virginia to the northeast?

7. The colony of Massachusetts was composed of what are now the states of Massachusetts and Maine. What colony was between the two parts of Massachusetts?

8. What colony was located east of Connecticut?

9. The colony of New York contained what are now the states of Vermont and New York. What two colonies bordered the colony of New York on the south? _____ and _____

10. In what year did the 13 colonies declare their independence from Britain?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Thirteen Colonies

Directions: Write the capital next to each star.

Word bank

Raleigh Harrisburg Boston Providence
Concord Albany Dover Richmond Atlanta
Hartford Trenton Annapolis Columbia



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New Hampshire



Massachusetts



Rhode Island



Connecticut



New York



Pennsylvania



New Jersey



Delaware



Maryland



Virginia



North Carolina



South Carolina



Georgia



Name: _____



13 American Colonies



N	M	C	N	D	O	N	M	A	I	N	M	A	D	W	S	T
P	A	A	M	E	S	N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	E	E	O	N
E	S	D	R	L	W	V	E	W	R	H	O	D	L	S	U	O
N	S	R	N	Y	E	H	R	M	J	G	E	O	A	T	T	R
N	A	G	H	N	L	W	A	O	M	E	M	R	W	R	H	T
S	C	E	W	O	B	A	E	M	A	A	R	G	A	H	C	H
Y	H	N	E	W	D	M	N	C	P	A	I	S	R	O	A	C
L	U	D	E	L	A	E	G	D	L	S	C	A	E	D	R	A
V	S	C	O	N	W	R	I	E	L	E	H	N	A	Y	O	R
A	E	L	I	W	A	R	E	S	O	Y	E	I	D	G	L	O
N	T	G	E	O	G	A	B	U	L	R	C	K	R	O	I	L
I	T	A	V	I	R	G	I	N	I	A	G	D	O	E	N	I
A	S	E	W	J	E	R	N	O	R	T	N	I	L	O	A	N
C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	C	U	T	L	D	A	F	L	A

Find the names of all 13 colonies hidden in the puzzle. Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.
Write the names of the colonies on the lines below as you find them.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____